

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-19 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 /119 W

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R 251156Z AUG 73

FM AMEBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7041

INFO AMEMOASSY LONDON

AMEMOASSY MOSCOW

AMEMOASSY PARIS

AMEMOASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMOASSY BELGRADE

AMEMOASSY PRAGUE

AMEMOASSY SOFIA

AMEMOASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO ORUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BONN 12189

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GW, OU, CZ, HU, WO

SUOJECT: LATEST ROUND OF FRG-CZECH TALKS ENDS WITHOUT
OREAKTHROUGH

REF: A) BONN 11959; O) BONN 11808; C) BONN 11667;

D) PRAGUE 1990

SUMMARY: AT BONN GROUP MEETING AUGUST 23, FRG REP
(OLECH) REPORTED ON STALLED FRG-CZECH TALKS ON ESTAO-
LISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. FRG THOROUGHLY CON-
VINCED THAT SOLUTION TO IMPASSE DEPENDENT ON USSR, OUT
FRG TOLD CZECHS OEFOR LATTER DEPARTED BONN ON
AUGUST 22 THAT FRG READY TO RESUME TALKS EITHER IN OONN
OR IN PRAGUE WHENEVER THEY WERE PREPARED TO MAKE FURTHER
POSITIVE PROPOSAL FOR SOLUTION OF THE LEGAL ASSISTANCE
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PROBLEM. OLECH REPORTED THAT BRANDT HAS NOT ACCEPTED

CZECH INVITATION FOR EARLY SEPTEMBER VISIT TO PRAGUE,
AND THAT CZECHS HAVE NOT BEEN TOLD WHETHER BRANDT IS
GOING OR NOT. FRG PRESS SPOKESMEN HAVE MADE CLEAR
BRANDT'S UNWILLINGNESS TO MAKE THE TRIP BEFORE THE ISSUE
IS RESOLVED TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S SATISFACTION.
END SUMMARY.

1. OLECH INDICATED TO BONN GROUP ON AUGUST 23 THAT, PARTICULARLY AFTER THE LAST FRG-CZECH ROUND WHICH ENDED IN BONN ON AUGUST 22, IT WAS CLEAR TO THE FRG THAT SOLUTION OF IMPASSE IS UP TO MOSCOW. DURING THE THREE DAYS OF TALKS WITH THE CZECHS IN BONN, THE FRG MADE A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS WHICH WERE SIMPLY REJECTED OUT OF HAND BY THE CZECH SIDE WITH NO SERIOUS ARGUMENTATION. THE FRG CONSEQUENTLY CONCLUDED THAT NO FURTHER FRG PROPOSALS WOULD BE MADE. CZECH DELEGATION HEAD AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GOETZ WAS TOLD ON AUGUST 22 THAT FRG WAS NOT IN POSITION TO OFFER FURTHER PROPOSALS BUT THAT, IF CSSR WERE PREPARED TO OFFER SOME OF ITS OWN, THE FRG WOULD RESUME THE TALKS EITHER IN BONN OR IN PRAGUE.

2. REGARDING A VISIT OF CHANCELLOR BRANDT TO PRAGUE, OLECH SAID THAT THE FRG HAS ALWAYS TAKEN THE POSITION THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, THE SIGNING OF THE FRG-CZECH TREATY, AND THE VISIT BY THE CHANCELLOR SHOULD BE A SINGLE PACKAGE. OLECH NOTED THAT THE CHANCELLOR HAS NEVER ACCEPTED THE CZECH INVITATION, AND THAT THE CZECHS HAVE SO FAR NOT BEEN TOLD WHETHER THE CHANCELLOR IS GOING TO PRAGUE OR NOT. FRG PRESS SPOKESMEN HAVE INDICATED CLEARLY THIS PAST WEEK, HOWEVER, THAT BRANDT DOES NOT INTEND TO MAKE THE TRIP UNTIL ALL OUTSTANDING ISSUES ARE CLEARED UP.

3. OLECH INDICATED THAT IN CONTACTS WITH THE SOVIETS IN BONN, FRG REPRESENTATIVES HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 12189

QUESTION OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE IS A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM FOR THE FRG AND THUS SHOULD BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY THE USSR. THE FRG LINE TO THE SOVIETS IS THAT LEGAL ASSISTANCE IS A "RIDICULOUSLY SMALL" MATTER FOR THEM WHICH COULD, IF UNRESOLVED, BURDEN FUTURE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS OF IMPORTANCE TO THE USSR. ACCORDING TO BLECH, THE SOVIETS HAVE INDICATED ISSUE INVOLVES STATUS OF BERLIN BUT AT THE SAME TIME HAVE BEEN CAREFUL TO CONVEY THAT THIS IS NOT THEIR DEFINITIVE VIEW. FURTHER, SAID BLECH, THE FRG HAS RECEIVED OTHER "CLUES" THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT REALLY MADE UP THEIR MINDS ON THE MATTER.

4. COMMENT: FROM BLECH'S PRESENTATION AND FROM TALKS WITH OTHER SENIOR FONOFF OFFICIALS, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS OBVIOUSLY CENTERING ITS EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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LEGAL ASSISTANCE ISSUES SQUARELY ON THE SOVIETS. MOST OFFICIALS SEEM TO RECOGNIZE THAT IT MAY TAKE TIME TO GET A SATISFACTORY SOVIET (AND CONSEQUENTLY EE) RESPONSE BUT THEY AND THE CHANCELLOR APPEAR PREPARED TO WAIT, EVEN IF IT MEANS POSTPONING THE BRANDT TRIP TO PRAGUE AND SCHEEL'S VISIT TO BULGARIA. IN SUM, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS DUG IN AND NOW CONSIDERS THAT ITS OWN LEVERAGE SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO BRING THE SOVIETS AROUND.

5. OUR FONOFF SOURCES BELIEVE THAT ONE OF THE MAJOR FACTORS IN THE PRESENT SOVIET POSITION IS THE LACK OF ANY SENIOR OFFICIAL IN BONN OR MOSCOW ABLE TO MAKE STRONG RECOMMENDATIONS OR DECISIONS ON GERMAN PROBLEMS.

AMBASSADOR FALIN AND HIS POLITICAL COUNSELOR IN BONN ARE
OFF ON EXTENDED LEAVE. THE SOVIET FONOFF'S THIRD
EUROPEAN DIVISION IS UNWILLING TO MAKE DECISIONS: DEPUTY
FONMIN SEMYONOV, WHO USED TO HANDLE GERMAN PROBLEMS, IS
TIED UP WITH SALT-II PREPARATIONS. AND GROMYKO
IS TIED UP WITH SO MANY MAJOR ITEMS THAT HE IS NOT
FOCUSING ON MINOR MATTERS RELATING TO BERLIN. THE FONOFF
CONTACTS ARE HOPEFUL THAT THIS SITUATION WILL CHANGE
AS THE SUMMER COMES TO AN END, BUT ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT
THE PROSPECTS OF MOVEMENT ON THE SOVIET SIDE EARLY
ENOUGH TO PERMIT THE ORIGINAL FRG TIME SCHEDULE FOR
RELATIONS WITH THE EES TO BE MAINTAINED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BONN12189
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS HILLENBRAND
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730815/aaaaakwe.tel
Line Count: 182
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) BONN 11959; O) BONN 11808; C) BON, N 11667;
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <14-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LATEST ROUND OF FRG-CZECH TALKS ENDS WITHOUT BREAKTHROUGH
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GE, CZ, HU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005